

THE ASPEN GLOBAL INNOVATORS NEW VOICES FELLOWSHIP

IMPACT REPORT

2013-2023



NEW VOICES
FELLOWSHIP
◆ aspen institute



DEAR FRIENDS,

The Aspen New Voices Fellowship brings more expert voices into the global development discussion. We miss opportunities when we focus on one-way conversations in global development. Rich, Western countries don't have a monopoly on good ideas. When local leaders champion solutions in partnership with their communities, the whole world benefits. This progress is unlocked when frontline experts, not just those with power and privilege, possess the tools to advocate, communicate and lead more effectively.

The Aspen New Voices Fellowship was launched in 2013 to speed that transformation. With each cohort we dove deep - mentoring Fellows on clear, convincing communication as a tool to increase visibility and recognition. Five years into the program, we began pairing the in-depth communications training with strategic advocacy sessions to ensure that Fellows use their newfound platforms to create real change.

We have ten years of data and evidence that proves this model works. When experts communicate

their ideas clearly and effectively, they become better equipped to influence development planning. And these investments in visionary leaders have far reaching ripple effects, opening new funding opportunities for locally-rooted organizations, creating avenues to enact better policy, and changing the lives of millions.

Our model is simple: equip locally-rooted experts with the world-class communication and advocacy skills and support they need to gain the attention and recognition that positions them to influence future development policies. The New Voices program has worked with close to 200 experts from Africa, Asia, Latin America & the Caribbean who represent a range of organizations building movements for large-scale transformation centering dignity, respect and justice.

Over the past ten years, New Voices Fellows have created a community of visionary leaders who are both locally rooted and globally networked. Over the next ten, we will work with them to accelerate the transformation of global development.



Andrew Quinn
ANDREW QUINN
Founding Director
Aspen New Voices

SNAPSHOT

4

WHERE WE'RE GOING

6

OUR MODEL

10

MEASURING SUCCESS AND KEY FINDINGS

12

CASE STUDIES

16

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

23

IMPACT IN ACTION

\$48,316,000

RAISED FOR FELLOWS' ORGANIZATIONS AFTER FELLOWSHIP*
*as reported to Fellowship staff by Fellows

12.98M

DIRECT REACH**
**data based on a sample of 30 fellows, reach likely higher

358M

INDIRECT REACH**
**data based on a sample of 30 fellows, reach likely higher

187

FELLOWS

94,904 MEDIA MENTIONS

2,168 OP-EDS PUBLISHED

The New York Times

BBC

Hindustan Times

The New York Review of Books

ALJAZEERA

The Guardian

The Boston Globe

THE NATION

allAfrica

DEMOGRAPHICS

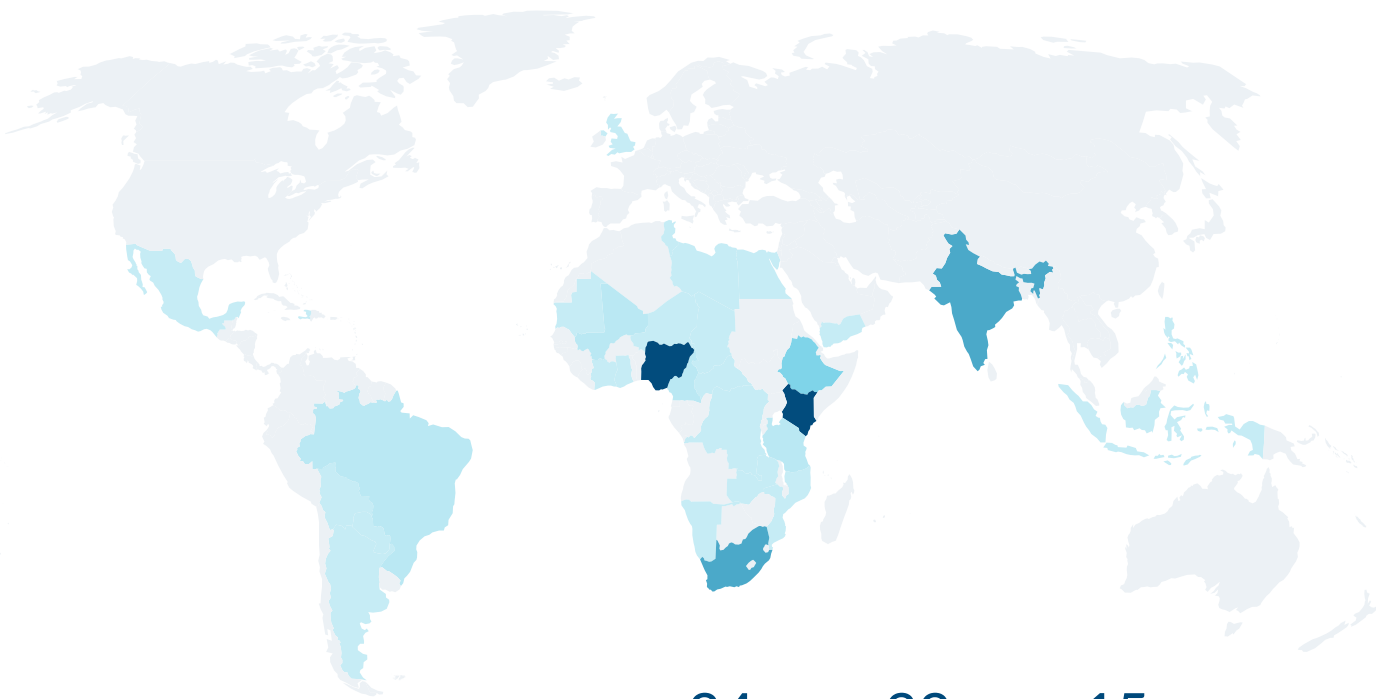
New Voices Fellows are doctors, lawyers, community organizers, midwives, entrepreneurs and scientists working to advance sustainable, equitable practices in many international development sectors. More than half of New Voices Fellows identify as women.

47

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

1 34

FELLOWS PER COUNTRY



TOP COUNTRIES REPRESENTED:

34 KENYA 32 NIGERIA 15 SOUTH AFRICA

85%

CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT AMONG FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

 **AMPLIFYING VOICES**



 **SHIFTING POWER**



 **BUILDING BETTER SOLUTIONS**

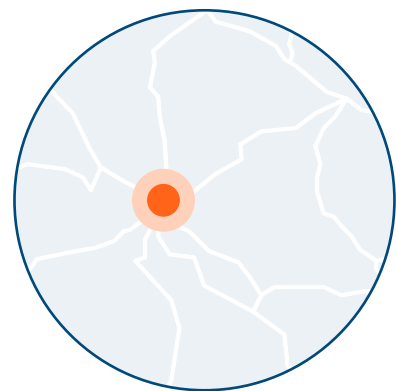
New Voices is built on the proposition that when we amplify the voices of experts and advocates representing communities closest to development challenges and strategically support their advocacy goals, we shift power on development decisions and build better, more sustainable solutions.

After accepting a Divisional Manager position at the African Development Bank, 2017 New Voices Fellow **Ed Mabaya** said,

“In many ways, the Aspen New Voices Fellowship prepared me for such a high-level position by expanding my audience beyond the echo chambers of academia. The Fellowship also challenged me to explore a career that brings me closer to ‘delivering dignity’ to many more Africans.”



Our vision for the future envisions new ways to accelerate this change.



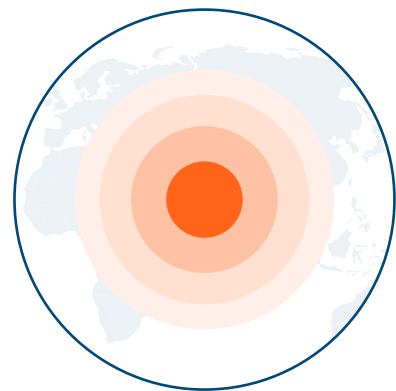
GO LOCAL

New Voices will support the growth of locally-designed and hosted regional Fellowships to spotlight the specific development priorities of different regions globally. This initiative begins with our Dakar-based partner Niyel as we launch **IMPACT West Africa**; our first bilingual Fellowship program for development champions from across West Africa.



GO GLOBAL

New Voices will continue to support global cohorts of Fellows. Building on the success gained through the global Fellowship program, we're creating the **Advanced Advocacy Initiative**. This program will provide tailored coaching, mentoring and training for a small number of New Voices alumni each year who have identified specific national or global advocacy goals, helping them to move the needle on key issues.



GO DEEP

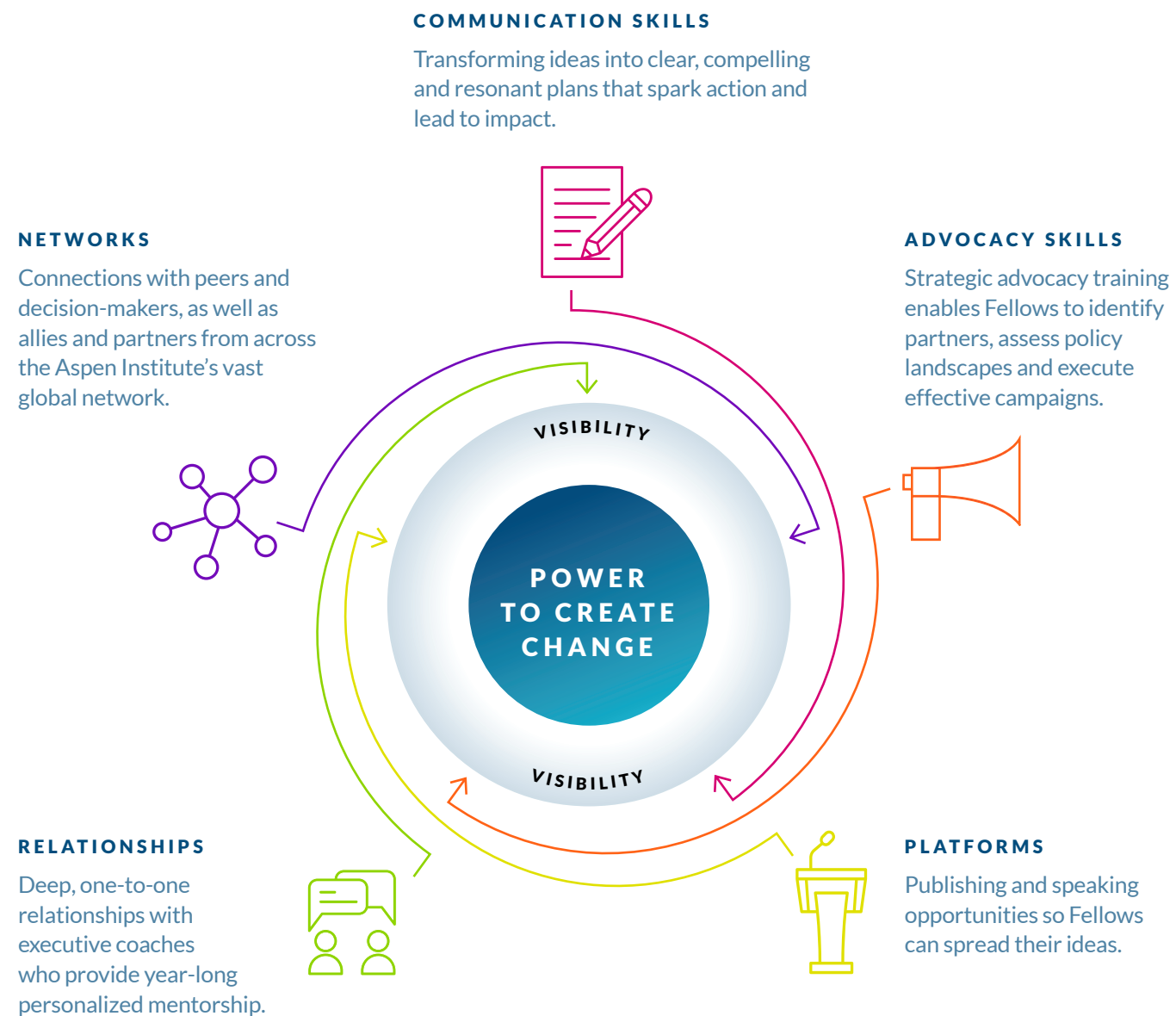
New Voices will invest in supporting its growing network of alumni around the world with advanced communications training and networking opportunities. These will include train-the-trainer modules to enable alumni to take ownership of the curriculum, and connections with the **Aspen Global Innovators' Communities First Global Collaborative** to foster conversations that build locally-rooted advocacy coalitions around the world.

As part of our commitment to building communities of locally rooted, globally networked leaders, we partner with organizations in Dakar, Senegal; Johannesburg, South Africa; and Nairobi, Kenya to deliver world-class learning opportunities for our Fellows.



POWER TO CREATE CHANGE

Our model is based on the belief that by providing Fellows with strategic communications and advocacy skills, bigger platforms and broader networks, we help Fellows gain visibility as leaders and experts. This increased visibility gives them the power to create change. After the Fellowship experience, Fellows more effectively advocate for development policy wins in their communities and across the world.



“Just in my cohort, we have been invited to the UN General Assembly, received funding opportunities, set up new initiatives... Such opportunities are a direct result of the principles and processes of engaging and supporting people like me from the Global South to reach audiences across the world to amplify our voices and provoke positive change for millions of people.”

Adaeze Oreh, 2019 New Voices Fellow



MEASURING SUCCESS

Investing in individual growth and development leads to policy change and movement building. Through training and mentoring, fellows spend a year actively engaging with the media and publicly advocating for their development priorities. Fellows learn how to communicate effectively which translates to a greater external recognition of their expertise.

How We Track Success



STRATEGIC ADVOCACY WINS

Many fellows achieve an advocacy goal within a year at the local, national or international level by using a detailed work plan they create during the fellowship year with Niyel.



MEDIA MENTIONS

An early indicator of success, we track how many times a Fellow and/or their organization is publicly mentioned annually. Compared to control groups, New Voices Fellows see significant increases in their recognition every year following their Fellowship.



CAREER ADVANCES

We follow Fellows throughout their life, keeping in touch with them about the progress of their career. Often Fellows report that the publicity they received during their Fellowship experience opens doors to new career opportunities.



AWARD RECOGNITION

Fellows go on to receive prominent awards in their sectors, thanks in part to the initial recognition and thought leadership amplification they received through the program.



CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

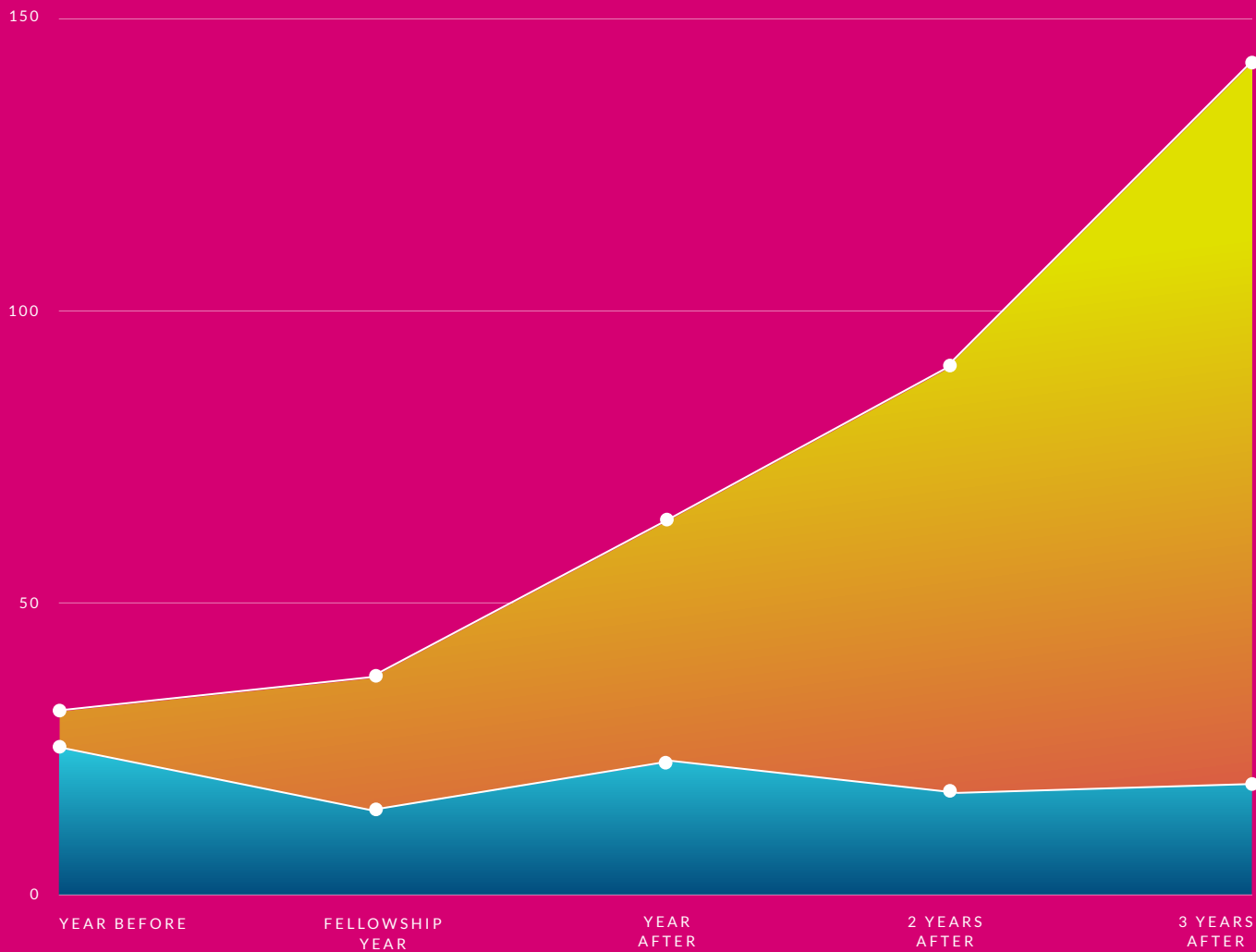
Fellows report significant increases in their organizational funding after their Fellowship experience, leading to greater capacity to serve.



For many fellows, New Voices is the catalyst that propels them into positions of power and places of recognition to more effectively advocate for policies that will make their region, their country, and the world better.

KEY FINDINGS

Over the past 10 years, we’ve observed a trend. Each fellowship cohort experiences a doubling of their public recognition two years after their Fellowship year as compared to a control group of individuals not selected for the program. This increased recognition leads to the ability to create change locally and globally.



COHORT Data was collected from Meltwater, an online analytic tool. Media mentions per Fellowship year were collected and averaged for both control and cohort groups. The cohort group represents the average media mentions of all Fellows from 2013 - 2020.

CONTROL The control group represents the average media mentions of Finalists from 2013 - 2020 who were ultimately not selected for the program.

Capacity Strengthening

Fellows report that the New Voices experience helps them secure new funding opportunities for their organizations, allowing for greater reach. Examples include:

\$2M AWARDED

Shikoh Gitau, Loice Ombajo and Thumbi Mwangi

Received \$2 million for an innovative disease surveillance project from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

2X VALUATION INCREASE

Shuchin Bajaj

Witnessed a two-fold increase in the investment valuation of his health-care company one year post-fellowship.

\$20M RAISED

Bernard Olayo

Secured \$20 million to expand the services of his life-saving oxygen plant.

2X FUNDING INCREASE

Ana Michelle Dubon Estrada

Doubles organizational funding 1 year after the Fellowship, becomes largest contraceptive provider in Guatemala.

\$2M AWARDED

Kennedy Odede

Won \$2 Million from the Hilton Humanitarian Prize to help transform urban informal settlements.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

The New Voices Fellowship works with Fellows to build networks and avenues to support key movements in global development. Fellows work in various development sectors, including food security, climate, accountability/governance, gender, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and global health.

The program supports fellows to transform development in three key ways:

**Amplifying
Innovative Solutions**

**Deepening Local
Leadership**

**Championing
Policy Changes**



Sathya Ragu

Revolutionizing Indian Agriculture

Sathya Ragu (2016) created a hub for small-holder farmers and invented the 'greenhouse-in-box' to help farmers increase crop yields in the face of increasing temperatures and droughts. Due to recognition gained during his Fellowship year, his organization Khyeti started collaborating with the Indian government and is scaling their work. After the second large Indian bank reached out to Sathya to form an innovative financing partnership for farmers, Sathya praised the New Voices Fellowship. **"Once again, I experienced the power of Op-Ed writing and will thank... the Aspen support system. This is super, super powerful!!"** In 2022, Khyeti won The Earthshot Prize, the world's most prestigious environmental award.

100,000
DIRECT REACH

Food Security

24 FELLOWS FOCUSED ON THIS WORK

New Voices food security fellows include scientists, farmers and lawyers fighting to improve nutrition, increase crop yields and promote climate-change agricultural adaptation.



Maulik Sisodia

Restoring Rivers and
Revitalizing Communities

68 Million

POLICY REACH

With communications and advocacy support from the New Voices Fellowship, Maulik Sisodia (NVF ‘19) helped secure a water security act in Rajasthan, India. In May of his Fellowship year, the Indian government established a new federal Ministry of Water. Maulik worked with his New Voices mentors to create and implement an ambitious advocacy plan which led him to write a series of targeted OpEds and strategically mobilized community organizations to push for a new water security act in Rajasthan. In February 2020, his water security act was approved by the state government and converted into law.

Climate

16 FELLOWS FOCUSED ON THIS WORK

New Voices climate fellows include environmentalists, researchers, and youth advocates pushing for more inclusive climate resilient policies.



Dr. Ngozi Erundu, Dr. Janet Midega,
Dr. Ify Aniebo, and Dr. Fredros Okumu

Rewriting the Global Health Agenda

Drs. Ngozi Erundu (NVF ‘17), Janet Midega (NVF ‘17), Ify Aniebo (NVF ‘16), and Fredros Okumu (NVF ‘19) teamed up with two other African researchers to write an open letter in 2021 criticizing an international funder for their failure to fund Africa-based institutions for Africa-focused projects. As a direct result of the open letter, the grant maker held three calls with the authors, put out a statement publicly and used the authors’ specific language and recommendations to inform their 2021-26 Strategy.

Additionally, USAID asked them to give a presentation on equitable relationships, the Special Advisor to the Director General at WHO retweeted the piece, and the authors spoke to staff at BMGF, the EU, Wellcome Trust and Canada Grand Challenges about how to implement the suggestions shared in the article.

The lead author, Dr. Erundu, said, “**New Voices is responsible for fostering the network that brought us together to write this article**”.

In part due to her article, Dr. Erundu was selected to support NVF Fellow and UN Special Rapporteur to the Right to Health, Dr. Tlaleng Mofokeng, to lead the O’Neill-Lancet Commission on Racism, Structural Discrimination and Global Health – a global effort to promote health equality.

Accountability and Governance

16 FELLOWS FOCUSED ON THIS WORK

New Voices accountability and governance fellows work across sectors. They are epidemiologists, economists and UN officials working to shift power to create more equitable systems.



Jemimah Njuki

Shaping Global Gender Policy

6
MEDIA APPEARANCES PER YEAR
BEFORE HER FELLOWSHIP

132
MEDIA APPEARANCES PER YEAR
AFTER HER FELLOWSHIP

Gender

13 FELLOWS FOCUSED ON THIS WORK

Jemimah Njuki (NVF ‘17) joined the Fellowship with the explicit goal of communicating to a more global audience. She focused on opinion pieces that discussed the need for a gender focus in food security work, and continued to raise her public profile as a policy thinker in the years that followed, publishing articles in everything from Ms. Magazine to Devex and All Africa. In March 2022, Jemimah was named Chief, Economic Empowerment, at UN Women, taking on a global policy role to help the organization promote women’s ability to secure decent jobs, accumulate assets, and influence institutions and public policies determining growth and development.

Jemimah says skills acquired through the Fellowship “greatly contributed to my appointment as the gender lead for the UN Food Systems Summit and subsequently my appointment to UN Women to lead on women’s economic empowerment.”

New Voices gender fellows are lawyers, doctors, midwives and researchers advancing family planning initiatives, economic empowerment efforts and gender equity work.



Andre Ndayambaje,
Monalisa Padhee, and Jane Otai

Creating Innovative Sexual Education Interventions

Andre Ndayambaje (NVF ‘20), Monalisa Padhee (NVF ‘19) and Jane Otai (NVF ‘13) identified a gap in adolescent SRHR education, which doesn’t always reach young people in rural settings with limited internet access. They developed a free, shareable, animated online toolkit to equip trusted partners such as teachers, religious leaders and youth advocated with better knowledge and teaching techniques. The toolkit follows a rights-based approach to sexual health, and is designed for use in settings with limited internet access or low literacy levels.

In rural India, more than 500 girls have completed the training with Senior Fellow Monalisa Padhee. In Kenya, Senior Fellow Jane Otai trained a cohort of adolescent girls as peer/family educators, who are now using their learning to teach other girls and their mothers.

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

28 FELLOWS FOCUSED ON THIS WORK

New Voices SRHR Fellows are community leaders, scientists, lawyers and doctors committed to protecting and advancing reproductive rights, change anti-abortion laws, fight against anti-LGBTQ+ legislation and lead gender equity work globally.

In 2020, New Voices hosted a two-day convening of SRHR experts, grassroots advocates and philanthropic leaders with 43 speakers from 16 countries across 5 continents.



Michelle Dubon Estrada

Transforming
Healthcare Access

360,000
DIRECT SERVICE REACH

Michelle Estrada Dubon (NVF '19) is a medical doctor in Guatemala. She is the medical director of a nonprofit organization, WINGS-Guatemala. During her Fellowship year, Michelle spoke at high-profile events such as the Aspen Ideas: Festival and she wrote Op-Eds for Ms. and the Boston Globe. Following her Fellowship year, funding for her organization doubled and WINGS-Guatemala became the largest contraceptives provider in all of Guatemala.

Global Health

66 FELLOWS FOCUSED ON THIS WORK

New Voices global health Fellows are doctors, bench scientists and researchers innovating new ideas to expand health access to all.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank You to Our Partners & Allies

We are grateful to our partners and allies who share our vision for this locally rooted, globally networked movement. We want to give special thanks to our longstanding partner, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, as well as other partners and allies, including:

BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation

OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS

Johnson & Johnson

NIYEL
CHANGE CREATORS

MERCK
FOUNDATION

burness

THE MOTH

The New Voices Fellowship is housed within the Aspen Global Innovators Group. Aspen Global Innovators identifies, supports and connects innovative global leaders who are advancing equity and improvements in health and development. To learn more, visit: www.aspenglobalinnovators.org.

The program is forever indebted to our outstanding network of mentors and training partners who bring this program to life:

- Anna Umbima
- Bee Wuethrich
- Kenichi Serino
- Sarika Bansal
- Nanjala Nyabola
- Katy Cronin
- Paula Fray
- David Williams
- Desmond Latham
- Sabra Saleh
- Steff Musho
- Rachel Jones
- Mwihaki Muragari

- Abaas Mpindi
- Larry Rosen
- Michelle Geis Wallace
- Nick Seaver
- Clare Wamalwa
- Nancy Moss
- Peggy Clark
- Katie Drasser
- Caroline Kiiru
- Rachael Strecher
- Janice Joseph
- Rabia Mahfooz



LOCALLY ROOTED, GLOBALLY NETWORKED.

www.aspennewvoices.org
aspennewvoices@aspeninstitute.org



ASPEN GLOBAL
INNOVATORS GROUP
◆ aspen institute